

# The Holbrook Argus.

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## NAVAJO COUNTY

### THOUSANDS OF ACRES OF RICH LAND FOR SALE

This County lies in the north-east corner of the Territory of Arizona, and contains 5,000 square miles of land. The northern part of the County is set aside and occupied by the Navajo Indians as a Reservation. The Atlantic and Pacific Railroad Grant of lands extends for 40 miles on each side of the railway and is surveyed in alternate sections of 640 acres each—the even numbered sections in each Township are public lands—the odd numbered ones are now the property of the Santa Fe Railway Company, and the Aztec Land & Cattle Company. Considerable land in the County has been ac-

quired by actual settlers as Homesteads, either by settlement or purchase. Along the south boundary line of the County is the Black Mesa Forest of Long Leaf and Red Pines, the reservation of which by the Government secures for all time the conservation of the waters of Silver Creek, Clear Creek and Cheylon's Fork which are living streams that head in the Forest, and run through the County in a northerly direction, emptying into the Little Colorado River the former 12 miles above, and the two latter 20 and 28 miles below Holbrook. From the north, Leroux Fork and Cottonwood Wash which head in the Burro mt's flow in a southerly direction and empty into the Little Colorado River, the former 3 miles below and the latter 25 miles below Holbrook.



SANTA FE DEPOT AT HOLBROOK

This section of territory, owing to its possibilities for irrigation and settlement has attracted the attention of the Reclamation Bureau, and Government Engineers are now at work making thorough examination and survey of the Little Colorado and its tributaries for the purpose of locating proper Reservoirs and diversion Dams to supply water to Irrigation Ditches throughout the entire Valley. All the Government land in the valley between Holbrook and Winslow has been set aside, to be developed as a Reclamation project under the law of June 17th 1902.

The main line of the Santa Fe Railroad from Chicago to California runs through the County

for 100 miles east and west, the entire distance being through the valleys of the Puerco, and Little Colorado River's. HOLBROOK, the county seat is near the centre of the county, on the north bank of the Little Colorado, about two miles below the mouth of the Rio Puerco—It is a thriving town of some 500 inhabitants, and is the distributing point from the railroad, for all government supplies for Fort Apache, a military post to the south, and Keam's Canon, an Indian School and Agency to the north. It is also a starting point from which to visit the wonderful Petrified Forest 18

miles Southeast of town. The County has built a handsome Court House and a substantial bridge across the river at the town.

WINSLOW, 33 miles west of Holbrook on the river, is the principal town in the county, having some 2,000 inhabitants. It is a well built little city, with Waterworks, Electric Lights, Ice plant and Opera House. Being one of the Division Headquarters of the R. R. Company, there are large machine shops and round-house built here. The County has built a good bridge across the river north of the city, as well as a bridge over Clear Creek on the wagon road to Holbrook, four miles east of the city. On the river to the north of town are some fine Alfalfa and Dairy Farms, and the hundreds of acres of undeveloped lands in the valley near the city cannot long remain unoccupied.

SNOWFLAKE, The largest agricultural settlement in the County, is 30 miles south of Holbrook, and is beautifully situated on Silver Creek which runs through the centre of the town. It has 1,500 inhabitants, the important industry being farming, and the near community is famous for its fine fruits and vegetables. The farm crops are alfalfa, wheat, corn and oats. Potatoes are also a very important and profitable crop.

TAYLOR, Another settlement on Silver Creek is 36 miles South of Holbrook, has 700 to 800 inhabitants, and is a very prosperous community.

WOODRUFF, A town of 200 inhabitants is twelve miles above Holbrook, on the river. It is a very pretty place surrounded by orchards and farms.

ST. JOSEPH, Ten miles below Holbrook on the river is perhaps the most prosperous of the agricultural settlements in the County, as the R. R. passes through it, giving easy access to market for its products. It has about 500 inhabitants, and is growing steadily. The town is situated on an elevated mesa, surrounded by rich valley lands of which some 1,200 acres are covered with farms, orchards and gardens. Melons alone have yielded to one farmer here, an income of \$200. in one year from one acre.

Besides towns there are several other small settlements and detached farms in the county, as well as a number of stock ranches.

The Puerco River has its source in the mountains forming the divide which separates Arizona and New Mexico about 90 miles northeast of Holbrook, and flows in a southwesterly direction until it empties into the Little Colorado river. For five months of the year the bed of the stream is dry and sandy, but underlying the surface of the broad and level valley through which the river meanders after it leaves the mountains, is an inexhaustible supply of good water at a depth of from 10 to 60 feet, which is utilized for irrigation by windmills, as well as for domestic use. At Adamana on the R. R. is an artesian flow from an experimental well that is bored to the depth of 400 feet. At 200 feet the drillers passed through a strata of salt water, but continued to the good water below without casing it off, in consequence of which the well is tainted with salt so that it can only be used for stock watering. The well has served the purpose however of establishing the fact that good artesian water can be had in the valley for the boring.

The Little Colorado River has its source in the Zuni mountains 100 miles to the Southeast of Holbrook and runs in a Northwesterly direction, emptying into the Colorado River just at the head of the Grand Canon. After joining the Puerco at Holbrook it flows through a beautiful level valley which opens out at both sides of the river from Holbrook to Winslow. The railroad is built along the north bank, traversing the valley for forty miles, passing through the green fields of alfalfa which charm the eye at St. Joseph. It is to this magnificent valley of arable land only partially developed, that the Argus desires to call the attention of those who would seek homes in the far west. Water can be had from the river for irrigation, and an abundance of underground water exists everywhere in the valley at a depth 15 to 100 feet, for domestic use or irrigation by pumping. At Manila, a station 15 miles below Holbrook on the river, is a well 200 feet deep, with an inexhaustible supply of pure water that is pumped for use by the locomotives on the railroad. It is hard-

ly to be doubted that flowing wells can be had in the valley, at a depth from 400 to 600 feet.

The elevation of this region above sea level averages 5,200 feet—The climate is delightful, neither too hot in summer, nor too cold in winter. The U. S. Weather Bureau has a Meteorological Observation station at Holbrook, and from its report for 1904 is shown an extreme heat of 74.4 degrees in July, and extreme cold of 29.8 degrees in January, the average mean temperature for the year being 54.2 deg. Rain generally occurs during the months of February, March, July, August and October, the rest of the year being a dry, healthful climate, with winds from the Southwest in the spring.

The amount of water necessary here for irrigation is less than one-half of that used on the farms in Southern Arizona while our climate is more healthful and invigorating. The soil is a rich alluvial deposit from the river, a mixture of red clay and sand, with occasionally some hard adobe soil, all of which when cultivated by the Campbell system of dry land farming, assisted by a little irrigation will yield certain and enormous crops of alfalfa, wheat, oats, kafir, corn, barley and a very superior quality of fruits and vegetables.

The table lands back from the river are rolling hills and valleys occasionally interspersed by lakes washes and canons, and in these are innumerable water holes filled every spring by the melted snow which runs from the high lands (7,000 feet elevation) in the Forest Reserve on the south, and the Burro Mountains on the north. These holes or tanks furnish plenty of water for stock, and the range is covered with a growth of Sacatone and Black Gramma grasses, which afford good pasturage both summer and winter.

Ever since the railroad was built through the country in 1883, the principal industry has been the raising of cattle, sheep, or horses, and large herds have been and are now being grazed in the country, while agriculture has been greatly neglected. The policy of the Railroad Company is to sell the lands at a very reasonable valuation. The railroad grant of lands extends through the entire Territory but the very cream of its landed property lies in the valleys of the Puerco and Little Colorado Rivers.

The Aztec Land & Cattle Company has discontinued its enormous cattle raising business that for twenty years past it conducted upon the open range in this county, having at one time fifty thousand cattle in their herd, and has adopted the plan of selling or leasing its lands to actual settlers.

At the company's old headquarters ranch, ten miles below Holbrook on the south bank of the river, it is putting in a model farm of fifty acres, and has fenced a large pasture adjoining the farm, in which to graze and feed such live stock as it may desire to keep.

This company owns all the alternate sections of land on the